Anti-AIDS drug

2704. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Health Organization has approved anti-AIDS drug manufactured by one of India's leading pharmaceutical companies for supply to the U.N. Agency;

(b) whether this anti-AIDS drug is easily available in the country; and

(c) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. Three anti-AIDS drugs—Zidovudine, Lamivudine and Nevirapine, manufactured by two Indian pharmaceutical companies namely, Cipla Ltd. and Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd. have been approved by WHO.

(b) These drugs are easily available in the country also.

(c) In addition to above drugs, generic manufacture of the following drugs is also being made in the country. There are: Stavudine, Didanosine, Efavirenz, Saquinavir, Indinavir, Ritonavir and Nelfinavir. Government have exempted all the above anti-retroviral drugs from excise duty in order to make them affordable to HIV/AIDS patients.

Anti-retroviral drug Nevirapine is being used for prevention of Mother To Child Transmission in our country. Besides, these drugs are also being administered for post exposure Prophylaxis among health care workers in public sector hospitals in the event of an accidental needle stick injury while treating HIV/AIDS patients.

Ban on gutkha and pan masala

2705. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a few State Governments including Tamil Nadu Government have already banned gutkha;

(b) if so, the names of the State Governments which have requested the Centre to ban gutkha and pan masala;

(c) the action taken on such requests;

(d) whether according to a survey, 10-40 per cent school students

and 70 per cent college students in Metros chew gutkha and pan masala;

(e) whether Government have conducted an all-India survey in this regard to know the status of use of gutkha and pan masala;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (g) Under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, both Central and State Governments are independently empowered to ban any edible product which is found dangerous to the health of the public. Using this power, the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Maharashtra have banned the sale and manufacture for sale of gutkha.

According to the National Family Health Survey conducted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 1998-99, the percentage of usual household members of age 15 and above who chew pan masala or tobacco is 28.3 per cent (male) and 12.4 per cent (female).

Cholera cases in Delhi

2706. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a spurt in cholera cases in parts of outer Delhi and unauthorized colonies recently;

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected during the current year; and

(c) how these figures compare with the last year's position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Government of NCT of Delhi has reported that during this year, till 19.07.2002, 156 cholera cases have been detected against 217 cases detected last year during the same period.

Health services to combat infectious diseases in Delhi

†2707. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Health Services in

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.